

1 54. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the
2 constricted passage has a fixed cross section.

1 55. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pipette
2 tip of the first part and the constricted passage of the
3 second part are designed such that, as the pipette tip
4 passes through the constricted passage, walls defining the
5 pipette tip collapse inwardly and form a liquid seal such
6 that liquid in the pipette tip of the first part is forced
7 upward into the sample cup of the first part.

1 56. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pipette
2 tip of the first part and the constricted passage of the
3 second part are designed such that, as the pipette tip
4 passes through the constricted passage, walls defining the
5 pipette tip collapse inwardly and form a moving liquid seal
6 such that the moving liquid seal progresses up the pipette
7 tip as the pipette tip passes through the constricted
8 passage.

1 57. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the pipette
2 tip of the first part and the constricted passage of the
3 second part are designed such that, as the pipette tip
4 passes through the constricted passage, walls defining the
5 pipette tip collapse inwardly and form a moving liquid seal
6 such that the moving liquid seal progresses up the pipette
7 tip as the pipette tip passes through the constricted
8 passage, wherein the moving liquid seal forces liquid in
9 the pipette tip upward into the sample cup.

1 58. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the pipette
2 tip of the first part and the constricted passage of the

3 second part are designed such that, as the pipette tip
4 passes through the constricted passage, walls defining the
5 pipette tip collapse inwardly and form a liquid seal such
6 that liquid in the pipette tip of the first part is forced
7 upward into the sample cup of the first part.

1 59. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the pipette
2 tip of the first part and the constricted passage of the
3 second part are designed such that, as the pipette tip
4 passes through the constricted passage, walls defining the
5 pipette tip collapse inwardly and form a moving liquid seal
6 such that the moving liquid seal progresses up the pipette
7 tip as the pipette tip passes through the constricted
8 passage.

1 60. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the pipette
2 tip of the first part and the constricted passage of the
3 second part are designed such that, as the pipette tip
4 passes through the constricted passage, walls defining the
5 pipette tip collapse inwardly and form a moving liquid seal
6 such that the moving liquid seal progresses up the pipette
7 tip as the pipette tip passes through the constricted
8 passage, wherein the moving liquid seal forces liquid in
9 the pipette tip upward into the sample cup.

1 61. (NEW) The apparatus of claim 54 wherein the pipette
2 tip of the first part and the constricted passage of the
3 second part are designed such that, as the pipette tip
4 passes through the constricted passage, walls defining the
5 pipette tip collapse inwardly and form a liquid seal such
6 that liquid in the pipette tip of the first part is forced
7 upward into the sample cup of the first part.